

STATE OF WASHINGTON

# **WASHINGTON STATE AND ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

October 2004



## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

Washington State has a long and proud tradition serving as home to several major military installations. The brave men and women who are stationed here, and their families, are an integral part of our community. Those who remain once their duty has been completed, enrich our society and make Washington an even better place in which to live.

Military installations in Washington are a tremendous asset to our state. The benefits they provide range from supplying private sector jobs, to protecting wildlife habitat, to promoting community volunteerism within the ranks.

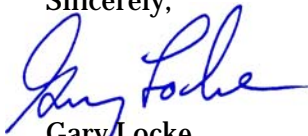
We are committed to working in close partnership with the Department of Defense and individual military installations in full support of Armed Forces critical operations. In an effort to further strengthen this relationship, my office has undertaken an assessment of Washington's efficacy as a platform for the defense of our country.

As evident in the enclosed report, Washington provides clear advantages in location, terrain, and climate. The military installations are well suited for a wide range of missions and are already responding to the Department of Defense's philosophy of transformation and joint operations and training. This report also documents examples of successful collaborations between the military and state or local agencies including efforts to meet military training and operational objectives, and achieve state and community policy goals. It illustrates how the state's commitment to the broader citizenry – enlarging access to quality education, ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing, attracting and retaining secure family wage jobs, and improving infrastructure to resolve traffic congestion – directly contributes to quality of life for military personnel and their loved ones, and the overall efficiency of the military installations.

In addition, this report serves as a reminder to policy makers that the military is impacted by decisions made at all levels of state government. Washington is firmly committed to working with its military installations in the advancement of common goals, as well as identifying and addressing issues of concern through constructive, open dialogue.

I am confident that you will find this report to be informative and useful.

Sincerely,



Gary Locke  
Governor





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## Contents

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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>WASHINGTON STATE’S GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES FOR FORCE PROJECTION, MILITARY<br/>TRAINING AND OPERATIONS.....</b> | <b>2</b>  |
| Existing Washington Based Forces Available to Project Power.....  | 2         |
| Support Forces that Project Power .....   | 3         |
| Washington’s Climate and Terrain .....  | 3         |
| Growth Management Act – Protection of Installations from Encroachment .....                                     | 4         |
| <b>WASHINGTON STATE’S INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY<br/>INSTALLATIONS .....</b>       | <b>5</b>  |
| Energy, Communications and Other Utilities .....  | 5         |
| Transportation.....   | 6         |
| Environment.....  | 9         |
| Historic Preservation.....  | 10        |
| Health Systems .....  | 11        |
| <b>WASHINGTON’S SUPPORT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES.....</b>                                      | <b>11</b> |
| Education .....   | 11        |
| Employment.....   | 14        |
| Workforce Training and Credentialing.....   | 15        |
| Housing.....  | 15        |
| Health and Human Services.....  | 16        |
| <b>THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON WASHINGTON STATE .....</b>                              | <b>17</b> |
| <b>CONCLUSION .....</b>   | <b>18</b> |

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## INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to provide information to federal, state and local policy makers regarding the value of Washington State and the military installations located within the state to the national defense. It is also intended to show the myriad of ways in which state and local agencies work in partnership with the military installations and support, directly and indirectly – the operations of the installations.

Washington State and its military installations form an ideal platform for projecting power throughout the Pacific Rim and many other parts of the world. Washington's location places the military in close proximity to Asia and Europe, and the diversity of its geography and climate provide all branches of the military a full range of training opportunities. The military installations themselves are suited for a wide range of missions; their close proximity to each other creates opportunities for joint training and operations. The value of Washington's military installations to the national defense is reason enough for federal, state and local policy makers to work closely with the military installations in the state.

But Washington's military installations also have a tremendous economic impact on the state. The direct and indirect annual earnings within Washington State generated by the military installation operations are \$7.2 billion. Approximately 188,000 jobs are created. The economic impact is not limited to the counties in which the installations are located: in fact, 21 of the state's 39 counties have companies that do business with the military bases.

Washington's policy decision in support of investment in energy, communications, transportation, environmental protection, historic preservation, utilities and public health each influence the ability of the military installations to carry out their missions, as is shown in this report. The consultative partnerships formed between agencies and installations have formed a positive working relationship that strives to meet both the operational needs of the military and the policy goals of the state.

Washington not only supports the operations of the military installations, it also supports the military personnel and their families. The excellence of Washington's education system and workforce development programs, and Washington's inherently strong economic advantages creates opportunities for the military personnel and their families to enjoy careers both in and out of the military. A strong housing market provides a viable alternative to living on base, which supports both the goal of reducing operational costs for the military and the interest families have in being able to live in the community.

The state views the military as a major sector of the economy. The Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs conducted extensive tours and hearing in 2003 to gain a "big picture" view of the role of the military in this state and the policy areas of interest to the military. The Governor's Office continued that work with an in-depth inventory of the many ways in which the state regulates or partners with the military installations, and by forming a state agency work group that meets periodically to discuss issues.

The information in this report is a reminder to policy makers at the state and local level that the military is affected by a wide range of policy decisions made the Legislature, state agencies and local governments and districts. The military is a stakeholder to be consulted and considered when state and local government are making decisions that affect its ability to carry out its mission.

## **WASHINGTON STATE'S ADVANTAGES FOR FORCE PROJECTION, MILITARY TRAINING AND OPERATIONS**

As the United States military transforms to meet future challenges, hard choices must be made on where to station forces. The military will likely not fight from its home bases, but will travel to wherever they are needed. The Department of Defense needs to locate its forces where they can best be deployed by air or sea from garrison and training facilities that have adequate ground and air space to train for any contingency. Installations may be called upon to serve different or evolving missions in the future. Washington offers a unique combination of access to transportation with climate and terrain suitable for training and a growing dedication to ensure that military facilities are not compromised by encroachment. Washington is a vital nexus of air, sea, rail and road services for transportation goods throughout the Pacific Rim. The bases currently in Washington are perfectly situated to project power throughout the Pacific Rim and to support military operations anywhere in the world.

### **EXISTING WASHINGTON BASED FORCES AVAILABLE TO PROJECT POWER**

Washington is home to five missions that project the power of the United States throughout the world. One of the two ballistic missile submarine bases in the United States is located at Bangor. The Navy has two aircraft carriers and a destroyer squadron based in Puget Sound, and the center for both Navy and Air Force combat electronic warfare is located on Whidbey Island. The Army has a Ranger battalion and a Special Forces Group at Fort Lewis. Also located at Fort Lewis are two Stryker brigades, with a third brigade arriving in the near future.

The Stryker brigades are the latest addition to the Army force structure. Of the six brigades planned, two are based at Fort Lewis and another will be equipping and training there in the next federal fiscal year. The Stryker brigades are well-protected, highly mobile and deployable units able to serve anywhere in the world.

The Ohio-class submarines at Bangor are part of the nuclear deterrent force. In addition, some units are being converted to be cruise missile carriers and to possess the ability to clandestinely deploy special force units.

The aircraft carriers and destroyer squadron are one-third of the aircraft carrier strike capability in the Pacific Fleet. They represent the ability of the United States to project power both on the high seas and in the air throughout the world. The ability to base surface warships and aircraft carriers in Puget Sound gives the Navy the ability to project airpower and sea control throughout the Pacific Rim and beyond. The Naval Air Station at Whidbey Island has the surge capacity to allow carrier air wings to form up prior to deployment at sea. The Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton provides the only nuclear-capable repair facilities on the Pacific Coast. The ability to deploy to locations around the Pacific Rim as well as other supporting features make Puget Sound an ideal location from which to project naval power.

The Rangers and Special Forces are elite units with the ability to deploy anywhere at anytime. The Special Force group based at Fort Lewis is specifically trained for operations in Asia. The Ranger battalion is one of three in the Army and is an elite light infantry unit capable of both conventional and special operations.

While Fairchild Air Force Base does not currently have units assigned that are capable of directly projecting power, it retains that capability. Through its history the base has hosted bomber squadrons under Strategic Air Command and Air Combat Command, and it retains the infrastructure needed to support bomber units if they were reassigned to Fairchild.

With these combat forces and the lift capability that is based in Washington, the United States has in a single state the ability to jointly train, deploy, and if necessary fight, with units that have had the opportunity to practice working together on a continual basis.



## **SUPPORT FORCES THAT PROJECT POWER**

There are military missions in Washington that play a supporting role, not only for the missions located in the state, but throughout the rest of the country. Fairchild Air Force Base is one of three dedicated aerial refueling bases in the nation and McChord Air Force Base hosts a wing of C17 Globemaster IIIs, the latest addition to the strategic airlift fleet. Also located at the Port of Tacoma are two National Reserve Fleet sealift ships capable of transporting military equipment. Aerial refueling capabilities from Fairchild extend the range of both combat and transport aircraft, allowing units in transit to travel farther before having to land. If deployed to a combat theater, the tankers continue to serve in a force multiplier role. The C17s based at McChord Air Force Base can not only deliver almost all the equipment in a Stryker brigade, they can also parachute Rangers into combat throughout the world. This ability allows the Army units in Washington to rapidly deploy worldwide. The Reserve Fleet ships and facility at the Port of Tacoma provide the ability to transport military equipment to ports the world over.

With both McChord Air Force Base and SeaTac International Airport in close proximity to Fort Lewis, Washington provides an excellent platform for transporting troops and equipment. McChord Air Force Base has the ability to receive the C5 Galaxy, the highest capacity transport aircraft in the Air Force inventory. SeaTac can easily accommodate aircraft from the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF) to assist in the movement of troops either to Asia flying the Great Circle Route or to Europe flying the Polar Route. The aerial tankers from Fairchild enhance this capability by extending the range of military aircraft through in-flight refueling.

Fairchild Air Force Base is also an integral part of airlift operations. With the aerial refueling tankers based there, Fairchild can support the transit of military cargo planes and combat aircraft to locations around the globe. The tankers can also be deployed to support transit operations in areas that do not have aerial refueling capability or to support combat operations. The base itself has the ability to handle any aircraft in the Air Force, and possesses, in conjunction with Spokane's Geiger Airport, the surge capacity to allow large flights of planes to form up at Fairchild, or to use it as an emergency landing facility without interfering with operations.

With many deep water ports in Puget Sound, Washington can accommodate military sealift operations. Fort Lewis' Seaport of Departure is Tacoma, which is the second closest of any port of departure to its associated army base. This means that units based at Fort Lewis can be at sea much quicker than almost any other combat force in the Army. In addition to the Port of Tacoma, there are also cargo-handling ports located at Olympia, Seattle, and Everett capable of supporting military sealift operations in terms of break-bulk, roll-on/roll-off, and container cargos. The Port of Seattle and Tacoma each have a Coast Guard security unit, making the ports a more secure place from which to conduct operations. The sea transit time is shorter to locations in North Asia than from any other port in the continental United States.

## **WASHINGTON'S CLIMATE AND TERRAIN**

In order to maintain peak proficiency, military units must train constantly. As the military transforms and the world in which we live changes, there is less certainty about a unit being deployed to a single type of geographic environment. In order to prepare for future deployments, units need to practice their skills in a variety of conditions and in a safe manner. Although Washington has the reputation of being a wet, "evergreen" state, there is much diversity in the geography and climate that provides varied training locations that are available all year.

Eastern Washington is a sparsely populated area, largely involved in agricultural and forestry activities. It has several areas of reserved airspace for low-level flights, and a variety of terrain, from pine forests to grasslands to canyons that provide opportunities for training either in the air or on the ground. The winters tend to be cold and dry, and the summers hot and drier.

Western Washington has a highly urbanized central core surrounded by mountains, forests, and prairies. Western Washington enjoys a marine climate, but does not have continuous rain. Summers

are sunny and dry, while winters are cool and wet. Much of the Cascade Range in Western Washington is state or federal forests. Some of these are used for training activities.

Washington has valuable airspace for Army, Navy, and Air Force training activities. Two dedicated helicopter training ranges are associated with Fort Lewis. Both of these allow pilots to practice maneuvers over state and federal forestlands. The training center at Yakima provides a training environment for more arid climates such as Southwest Asia. There are also multiple low-level transit routes that Air Force and Navy pilots use to train for low-level flight. A large expanse of air space is dedicated for military maneuvers over the northern part of eastern Washington. Several areas of dedicated airspace exist in western Washington and off the Pacific coast.

In addition to the volume of airspace that is available, Washington State is also uniquely situated to support training for electronic warfare. The electromagnetic spectrum in the state is remarkably clean. This allows for units such as the Prowler squadrons based at Whidbey Island to train for their mission without interfering with other uses of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Washington provides opportunities for both woodland and dryland training of ground forces and joint operations. With both Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center, Washington affords the military two environments to prepare troops. The Air Force maintains its survival school in Eastern Washington, using the national forests north of Spokane as a training environment for evasion and escape training. Special Forces and Rangers also use this facility, as well as practicing alpine warfare on Mount Rainier. These varied terrain features in a relatively compact space make Washington an ideal place for the Armed Forces to prepare for ground combat.

Puget Sound provides the military with an excellent series of sheltered deep-water ports to support combat, transport, and logistics missions. Everett Naval Station is only a few hundred yards from the pier to deep water. Bremerton has the ability to accept all Navy ships for either basing or repair. Proximity to the Port of Tacoma allows for rapid sea transport of army units based at Fort Lewis. There is a range to practice the deployment of aerial mines in association with Whidbey Island. And with the development of the Littoral Combat Ship, the San Juan Islands, Strait of Juan de Fuca and Washington Coast provide ample opportunity for training in a littoral environment. Finally, in neighboring British Columbia, there is the Nanoose Torpedo Range, where new undersea warfare weapons developed at Keyport are tested in conjunction with the Canadian Navy. There are numerous water drop zones for use by Special Forces that are close to their home base, allowing for efficient training. The combination of these opportunities allows the military to conduct a wide range of maritime activities in a sheltered environment.

Washington has the climate and terrain that provide the United States Armed Forces with a well-rounded environment in which to train. With two distinct climates, access to training facilities on land, at sea, and in the air, there is ample opportunity for the services to practice working together. As the world changes and the armed forces transform to meet new challenges, Washington provides the ability to train for deployment.

## **GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT – PROTECTION OF INSTALLATIONS FROM ENCROACHMENT**

Washington State recognizes that incompatible development of land close to military installations reduces their ability to perform their military mission or to accept new missions. Washington has been planning to accommodate growth since 1990, when the Legislature enacted the Growth Management Act. The Act requires local governments to coordinate and plan for growth, wise land use management, sustainable economic development, and promote the health, safety and quality of life of the state's residents. The Act directs cities and counties to develop comprehensive plans that designate and protect critical areas and resource lands of long-term commercial significance, thereby directing growth to appropriately zoned developable lands. This approach has ensured that there is substantial airspace in the state with minimal population.

In 2004, to prevent future encroachment near military installations, the Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6401. Local governments are instructed to prohibit inappropriate development in the vicinity of military installations that would interfere with the base's ability to perform its mission. In addition, cities or counties considering amending their comprehensive plans or development regulations regarding properties adjacent to military installations are required to notify the base commander of the intended amendment and to allow 60 days for comment on the proposed change. This provides a means for local governments to stay informed of the needs of the military.

Even before the enactment of ESSB 6401, local governments took steps to ensure compatibility in the permitted land uses around military facilities. Island County has stringent standards to help reduce interior noise in residences around Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. There is also required notification of airport activities during property title searches on all properties within area identified on the local airport environs map. The city of Oak Harbor includes an overlay zone in their municipal codes to ensure that surrounding land uses are compatible with the operations of NASWI. Similarly, Spokane County adopted regulations that protect Fairchild Air Force Base from encroachment, including the approach routes to the air base. Lakewood has made strides to protect McChord Air Force Base from further encroachment by adopting a measure to ensure that no further incompatible development takes place in the approach airspace to McChord. The comprehensive plan for the city states that it supports the acquisition of the clear zone associated with McChord. The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development is working with Lakewood to provide funding to study the cost and identify options for addressing the privately owned portion of the clear zone.

## **WASHINGTON STATE'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

### **ENERGY, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER UTILITIES**

#### **Energy**

Businesses and industries located in Washington State enjoy the benefits of a reliable and competitive energy supply. The state is a leader in capitalizing on energy efficiency opportunities to extend our supplies and keep prices competitive into the future. Washington's energy infrastructure assures a ready supply of low cost power to military installations in Washington.

Washington's petroleum supply infrastructure is deep and flexible, which translates into a very reliable supply. Five refineries produce sufficient amounts to be a net exporter, including key military products like jet fuel, aviation gas, diesel and gasoline. Washington military bases can also be supplied from two pipelines entering the state from the east. A major pipeline also runs from the refiners in the Northwest region of the state to Portland. Product can be delivered from all areas of the state to military bases by pipeline, barge or truck. In general, the local refineries supply the naval bases via military barges. Jet fuel is supplied direct to McChord and Fairchild by pipelines. Fort Lewis receives diesel and gas supplies by truck from local suppliers through the Defense Energy Support Center. The deepness of the petroleum supply system in Washington (multiple crude sources, multiple refineries), the simplicity of supply (by barge or pipelines) and the flexibility of the system (multiple, interchangeable transportation alternatives during emergencies) means an unusually secure and reliable supply of petroleum products to military bases in Washington.

Washington is served by two natural gas pipeline networks that give the state ready access to natural gas basins in British Columbia and Alberta, as well as gas basins located in the Rocky Mountain region. Several pipeline upgrades are in progress or have been proposed, and development of Liquefied Natural Gas receiving terminals in the region is being examined, to give the region access to global supplies. Natural gas is primarily delivered by four regulated utilities, though many large consumers buy gas directly from the pipeline companies. The state has two natural gas storage facilities, which are

primarily used to insure gas deliverability and smooth seasonal demand. A third storage facility is being developed in Kitsap County.

Washington State's economy has benefited from cost-effective and reliable electricity supplies since the beginning of major hydroelectric development in the 1930's. Hydropower provides seventy-three percent of Washington's electric power. Washington State will continue to be served by increasingly reliable and competitive electric power supplies. The military bases have an advantage of being eligible for direct supply of power from the Bonneville Power Administration, one of the lowest cost sources of electricity in the United States. All of Washington's largest bases, except Ft. Lewis and McChord Air Force Base, have taken advantage of this. Tacoma Power serves Ft. Lewis and McChord, and is also a very low cost supplier since most of its power comes from either BPA or its own low-cost hydroelectric dams.

## **Communications**

The telecommunications industry in Washington State consists of multiple suppliers in a diversified and competitive market. Market conditions are favorable towards economically efficient and technological advanced telecommunications providers. In Washington today, 97% of all households have affordable telephone services. This penetration rate is higher than the national average of 95%. Washington also has one of the lowest monthly flat rates for local residential telephone service. Washington sponsors Washington Telephone Assistance Program, which provides basic telephone service to low-income households at a rate of \$8 per month.

The 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act provided a framework for the pro-competitive policies being implemented by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), which regulate telecommunication providers in Washington State. The WUTC requires local phone companies to allow competitors to serve their customers and, in turn, the WUTC has been able to reduce regulations. Competitors may construct their own facilities or lease unbundled network elements at cost-based rates or resell existing facilities. As a result, consumers have a greater choice of providers and technologies. Competition in the major metropolitan areas is intense.

The Puget Sound region has an abundance of fiber installed and available for use by the military. Most available fiber is controlled and managed by private sector telecommunications organizations, but significant capacity exists. The University of Washington is an anchor tenant on the national large capacity broadband networks.

## **Water, Septic and Sewer**

Water and wastewater treatment facilities are the responsibility of local governments and private providers. The Department of Health and the Department of Ecology have a regulatory role in ensuring safe drinking water and appropriate disposal of waste, while the Department of Ecology oversees water rights. The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development administers grant programs to assist local governments that invest in infrastructure. The Growth Management Act requires local governments to plan for infrastructure to accommodate growth.

While some of the military bases have their own water supply and waste water facilities, others tie into the local government facilities. According to the Department of Health, most of the larger military installations have approved water supply facilities with some capacity to expand. If expansion of these systems was desired, the Department of Health would work with facility managers on water source and engineering issues. The Department of Ecology would coordinate water rights issues.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Washington's multi-modal transportation system links the military installations to each other and to the world. The state has several major investment programs underway to address the mobility needs of the area: including a Sound Transit agency that provides express bus and commuter rail service and is building a light rail system; a Regional Transportation Investment District that is completing plans for

major investment in transportation corridors that will be put to a vote of the people; and a series of investments by the Washington State Department of Transportation from the “Nickel Gas Tax” passed in 2003 designed to address congestion points in the system.

### **Highway Preservation and Safety**

Washington has a long-standing commitment to making sure the existing transportation system is well maintained and is safe to use. An investment program started more than fifteen years ago has resulted in 90.7% of highway lane miles being rated in good or better condition. That is a better rating than 39 other states. Highways in good condition are safer, allow more rapid travel, result in less wear and tear on vehicles, and support the heavy trucks and other vehicles that the military uses. A strong maintenance program also reduces the need for preservation investment, which reduces the frequency of lane closures for repaving. An aggressive enforcement program by the Washington State Patrol and educational programs by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission has improved highway safety. Between 1980 and 2002, vehicle miles traveled increased by 92% while the number of fatal and disabling injury crashes has fallen by almost 63%.

### **Highway Operations and Capacity**

Washington State is reducing the causes of congestion, providing capacity improvement and making the most efficient use of the existing transportation system in order to provide mobility to the population. A multi-pronged strategy is making significant progress in this effort.

Blocking incidents on highways cause a large percentage of congestion. The Department of Transportation has incident response teams that are specially trained to respond to incidents in the major highway corridors. They clear the roads by helping drivers with disabled vehicles, restoring the normal flow of traffic as safely and quickly as possible. Roving service patrols also help to spot and report problems immediately and to help motorists who are stranded due to vehicle breakdowns.

The Department also operates an extensive High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) system that reduces travel time for buses, vanpools and car pools. The system has 198 miles in the Central Puget Sound, with an additional 7 miles being built and 92 miles planned, for a total system (when completed) of 297 miles. The system is designed to reach from Everett to Lakewood, and across the Puget Sound into the Kitsap Peninsula via the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

Improved driver information is also an important tool. The Department of Transportation operates a web-based information program to provide drivers with travel time estimates in eleven corridors in the Central Puget Sound. The program allows drivers to know with 95% certainty that they will arrive at their destination in the projected time. Better information means better decisions regarding travel routes and departure times.

In 2003, the Legislature passed a 5-cent gas tax increase to add to the existing capacity improvement capital investment program. The program of projects funded in the budget is designed to address the worst “chokepoints” and to make substantial investments in major corridors throughout the state. These projects include significant investment in access to and through Spokane (near Fairchild Air Force Base), improvements on I-90 in the cross Cascade corridor (used by Fort Lewis in transporting troops and equipment to the Yakima Training Center), improvements along SR 20 in Skagit County and Island County, (near Naval Air Station Whidbey Island) improvements in the Everett area (home to Naval Station Everett), projects in Kitsap County (home to Naval Base Kitsap and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard) focused on choke points along SR 16, SR 3 and SR 304, and improvements in Pierce County (home of Fort Lewis and McChord) centered on I-5 and SR 16, just north of the military installations. In addition, SR 18, which is part of the corridor between Fort Lewis and the Yakima Training Center, will continue to be widened for improved mobility and safety. Other projects include improving access from I-82 to the communities in the Yakima area, and major investments in the corridors in Snohomish, King and Pierce County in conjunction with the Regional Transportation Investment District.

## **Public Transportation**

Washington State has a system of locally governed public transit systems. All of the communities near the major military installations are served by transit systems. Island Transit serves Whidbey Island, and provides access between the community and the main gate of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. Everett Transit likewise provides services to the main gate of Naval Station Everett. Community Transit, with links to Everett Transit, serves Marysville (home of the Marysville Family Support Center) along with the rest of Snohomish County. Pierce Transit provides full service in Pierce County to McChord Air Force Base and Fort Lewis. Military personnel who live in Thurston County can use Intercity Transit to connect with Pierce Transit. Kitsap Transit provides service to the military housing and hospital in the area. It also has a “worker-driver” program for individuals working on the Navy base or at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Mason Transit, serving Mason County near Kitsap County, also offers service to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for workers who live in Mason County. Spokane Transit provides full service to Fairchild Air Force Base.

## **Washington State Ferries**

Washington is blessed with a beautiful body of water known as Puget Sound, but with that blessing comes a transportation challenge, as it divides the Central Puget Sound metropolitan area into a west and east side. To provide mobility and access across the Puget Sound, Washington operates the largest ferry system in the United States. It carried over 24.4 million passengers and 10.8 million vehicles with their drivers in FY 2004. Many of the passengers and drivers were military personnel or civilian employees of the Department of Defense. The fleet consists of 28 vessels that operate over ten routes, connecting 20 ferry terminals. The Clinton/Mukilteo route serves Whidbey Island, and provides a south access to the mainland for Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (which also has bridge access to the north). Four routes: the Edmonds/Kinston route, the Seattle/Bainbridge route, the Seattle/Bremerton route and the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route, serve the Navy installations on the Kitsap Peninsula. The Department’s investment program includes new and larger vessels to replace older portions of the fleet and improve carrying capacity, as well as investment in the ferry terminals to lengthen their life and improve services.

## **Ports and Freight Mobility**

The Puget Sound has seven deep-draft ports. The Port of Seattle and the Port of Tacoma together represent the second largest container port complex in the United States. Fort Lewis uses the Port of Tacoma facility for moving equipment overseas. Recently, the Department of Defense has been using the Port of Olympia as an embarkation point for equipment going to Iraq. The Port of Seattle is a designated sustainment port. It would be used to ship consumable supplies to troops in a major regional conflict overseas. The Port, in those circumstances, could handle a peak of up to 1,100 containers on 100 to 350 railcars a day.

Washington State is focused on improving freight mobility. Since 1996, a partnership of public and private sector organizations known as “FAST” (Freight Action Strategy for Seattle-Tacoma-Everett) has worked to streamline the movement of freight through the Central Puget Sound region. Washington also has benefited from major capital investments by Burlington Northern Santa Fe. Washington’s Freight Rail Assistance Program improves the capacity and survival chances of branch lines. For example, the state awarded the Port of Olympia a \$250,000 grant in 1999 to improve the tracks into the port complex in downtown Olympia. The Army has been using the rail to ship equipment to Fort Lewis. The state also provided funds to the Puget Sound and Pacific Railroad, which serves Bangor submarine base. The Department of Transportation is also working with Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane County and other partners to design and build a new rail spur that will move the “Geiger Spur” rail line away from the entrance of Fairchild Air Force Base and provide improved freight movement capacity for companies in the area.

## **Aviation Systems**

Washington State has an extensive network of commercial and general purpose airports that provide access to the major military installations in the state. SeaTac Airport is centrally located for the majority of the military installations, and is expanding its capacity to provide additional service to the region. Spokane International Airport and Yakima International Airport also provide commercial services near significant military installations. Seven of the airports in the state are designated for use in training and for emergency services for national defense, including Ephrata Municipal, Snohomish County, Grant County International, Olympia, Tri-Cities, Boeing Field and Spokane International Airport.

## **Transportation Planning with the Military**

Washington has a strong transportation planning partnership with the military installations. Fairchild Air Force Base, for example, was involved in the development of the Airways Heights Transportation Plan and the US 2 Route Development Plan. Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base are involved in the planning for the Cross-Base Highway and Fort Lewis was involved in the SR 507 Route Development Plan. The Navy installations on the Kitsap Peninsula were involved in the SR 303 Bremerton to Silverdale Study, the Hood Canal Bridge Closure Mitigation Study and the SR 104 Improvement Study. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island participated in the SR 20/Regatta Drive intersection project and the SR 20 Sharpes Corner to SR 536 Safety Study. The military installations also participate in the state's regional transportation planning organizations' planning efforts as appropriate.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Department of Ecology and the Department of Fish & Wildlife are the two primary state agencies working in partnership with the military installations to protect the air, land, water and habitat resources at the military installations. This cooperative relationship is based on common environmental goals shared between the state and federal government.

Under the Model Toxics Control Act, the Department of Ecology oversees the cleanup of most Department of Defense sites in the state. Many of the installations are on the National Priorities List Superfund as a result of significant historic problems in managing waste. The cleanup work is, by and large, centralized at Ecology's headquarters to ensure uniform application of laws and coordinated approaches. The Air Quality Program coordinates with local air pollution control agencies, which have primary responsibility for air quality. The local air pollution control agencies work closely with the installations to protect air quality while allowing necessary military operations and training. Obscurant training has received special attention. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has amended its regulations to allow such training at Fort Lewis, and Ecology issues annual variances for the Yakima Training Center. Ecology also works with the military installations to provide technical assistance in meeting motor vehicle emissions standards. Ecology conducts annual inspections of the installations to verify proper management, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous and dangerous waste. The regulation of solid waste is delegated to the local jurisdictional health departments, with Ecology providing oversight and technical assistance. Under state law, Ecology responds to spills at most military installations. A "Partners in Prevention" memorandum of agreement has been signed with the U.S. Navy, addressing cooperative oil spill management and giving Ecology access to Navy vessels during spill incidents. Ecology works with the regulated facilities, completing oil spill drills and working on other planning functions. Water quality issues involving the military installations and Ecology are generally limited to groundwater protection. The EPA authorizes discharge to surface water on federal lands under the Clean Water Act. Ecology is charged with protecting the beneficial uses of groundwater. Ecology permits discharge to groundwater through a state waste discharge permit to some installations, and also registers underground injection control wells.

The Department of Fish & Wildlife enjoys a close working relationship with the military installations. The installations play an important role in individual fish and wildlife projects and partnerships, and help protect habitat for wild species. For example the military installations are not required to apply for

a state Hydraulic Project Approval permit. Due to the cooperative working relationship, the military installations apply for an HPA for projects that will be conducted in or near the waters in the state. This cooperation enables the Department's habitat biologists to work with resource and engineering staff at military installations providing information and technical assistance on projects, in many cases resulting in the incorporation of the advice into plans for facility development.

Numerous examples of the working relationship between the military installations and the Department could be cited, but a sample of those include:

- Naval Station Everett has allowed and participated in surveys for many wildlife species in the old-growth forest at the Jim Creek Radio Facility outside of Arlington.
- Fairchild Air Force Base sponsors an annual youth fishing day with the Department on the land around Clear Lake; and many personnel are instructors in the Department's Hunter Education Program.
- Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base provide the largest contiguous tracts of Oregon White Oak woodland and prairie in western Washington. Fort Lewis has engaged with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state and local agencies to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement for protection and management of specifics at-risk in the oak woodland-prairie landscape.
- Naval Air Station Whidbey Island supports the Department's Wildlife Program activities including base access and participation in the Harlequin Duck banding and Marine Mammal education. Department staff have also been allowed on-base access to study Great Blue Heron colonies and for shoreline aerial surveys.
- Yakima Training Center is a valuable habitat for a diverse array of wildlife species that are dependent on shrub-steppe. The Department and the Center work together to study the habitat and wildlife and to make sure that they are protected while the operating and training needs of the military are accommodated.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development works with all of the military installations to identify, evaluate and protect cultural and historic properties. The federal National Historic Preservation Act is the principle vehicle for this work, which includes a requirement that federal agencies consider the effect of their actions on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Since the properties listed in the National Register are typically 50 years in age and older, and many of the buildings and structures on the military installations are of historic significance as well as meet the age threshold, the Department works closely with the military installations.

Fort Lewis oversees a rich and diverse range of cultural and historic resources, ranging from intact archaeological sites dating to thousands of years in age to archaeological sites associated with the historically significant Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget Sound Agriculture Company. Fort Lewis is also home to architecturally and historically significant buildings and structures. The installation has a well-established and capable cultural resource management staff. The Department enjoys a close working relationship with the Fort Lewis cultural resource staff, and the installation also has established a good working relationship with the Nisqually tribe.

The Air Force has episodic contact with the Department. McChord Air Force Base relies on consultants, while Fairchild Air Force Base relies on a combination of a contact person on staff, consultant expertise and a working relationship with the Spokane County historic preservation officer. Both installations have a productive working relationship with the Department.



The Navy has several installations throughout the Puget Sound, and uses a combination of Navy Region Northwest staff, consultants and on-site staff according to the amount of historic preservation work. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, for example, uses the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Poughkeepsie or consultants, and historic preservation work has been limited to the Seaplane Base at Oak Harbor and the Out Lying Field Coupeville. The Naval Undersea Warfare Center at Keyport has a very rich history, resulting in an active working relationship with the Department. The Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Bremerton likewise has a long and proud history and historic properties to match. PSNS employs a staff person specifically detailed as the contact person on historic preservation matters. The Department enjoys a close working relationship that focuses on preserving the many buildings and structures of architectural or historic significance. The Bangor Submarine Base portion of Naval Base Kitsap and Naval Station Everett do not have significant historic sites because of the age of the bases.

## **HEALTH SYSTEMS**

The Washington State Department of Health has a mutually beneficial working relationship with the military installations, focused on emergency response capability. The Department works with the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Naval Base Kitsap to plan for and respond to onsite accidents involving nuclear material, and to receive support from the Navy in planning for and responding to radiologic incidents external to the installations. The Department of Health, the Military Department and the Department of Ecology are working with the Navy to conduct joint radiological emergency response exercises beginning in the fall of 2004. The Department is also working with Fort Lewis and Madigan Army Medical Center to conduct environmental surveillance of biological, chemical and radiological agents. The Department's public health laboratory is involved with sampling efforts. The Department is also developing a cooperative agreement with the Fort Lewis Safety Office that would provide the Department expanded training opportunities with the military, as well as provide for mutual assistance similar to the arrangement with the Navy. The Department is working with entomologists at Fort Lewis to monitor the mosquito population during the spring and summer, which is important given the risk of West Nile Virus. The Department's food safety program assists the military with training. Finally, the Department has an informal arrangement with the Military Laboratory at Madigan Army Medical Center to provide mutual surge capacity.

## **WASHINGTON'S SUPPORT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES**

### **EDUCATION**

#### **The K-12 System**

Washington State adopted the Education Reform Act in 1993, which marked a commitment by the state to increasing education standards and expectations for all public school students. Academic standards that challenge all students to solve problems, communicate and think critically are in place across all grades and content areas. The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is a nationally recognized assessment system that gauges student, school and community progress in reaching the standards. Accountability goals for reading and mathematics have produced strong achievement gains. Washington has set its standards high, and held to that standard over the years. Washington's teaching force is among the most highly qualified in the nation. Approximately 99% of Washington's 57,900 teachers are fully certificated. Rates of teaching "out of field" are very low.

Improving math and science education is a central focus of the state's education reform efforts, relying on collaborations among school districts, state government, corporations and private partners. Math and science achievements are on the rise. Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform, or LASER, is an ongoing Washington effort in more than 80 school districts to improve science education. LASERs helps school systems fundamentally and comprehensively overhaul science teaching and learning.

Without a strong foundation in reading, students cannot succeed in other content areas. Literacy is a priority at every level, including high school. Washington has made a long-term commitment to improving reading through programs including Washington Reads (aimed at low-performing schools), Washington Reading Corps (a public-private partnership that identifies and trains reading tutors) and Washington State Reading Initiative (a pre-K through 16 initiative to scale up research-based reading success in every school).

All students are expected to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge needed for opportunities and economic advancement. Washington is committed to awarding high school diplomas only to students who have met state standards in reading, writing, mathematics and science.

Washington has a record earned through objective test results. In 2002, 54% of Washington high school students took the College Board's SAT examination, putting Washington in the top tier of all 50 states. Of the states with more than 50% participation, Washington has the highest math and verbal scores. In the state's WASL examination, student performance on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics assessment has more than doubled since 1997. Washington's students perform significantly higher than the national average in reading and mathematics on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). More than 60% of Washington's third-graders and about 55% of sixth-graders perform higher than the national average in both reading and mathematics.

The schools districts near the military installations serve families both living on base and off base. A few are highlighted in this section just as examples of the educational programs and outreach efforts. Kitsap County school districts teach many of the children of the men and women serving at Naval Base Kitsap and the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The schools provide the full range of educational opportunities, including advance placement college programs, special education and gifted education programs, career and technical education and programs such as Running Start (earning college credit while in high school) and Jump Start (earning high school credit while in junior high). The schools participate in programs involving partnerships with military installations, including Personal Excellence Through Cooperative Education (PECE), a partnership with Trident Training Facility to provide hands-on instruction for fifth graders, and Partnerships with Navy Fleet and Family Support Centers to provide counseling to military children who have a parent deployed.

The Clover Park School District teaches many of the children of the men and women serving at Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base. Clover Park students have an excellent academic record, with 92 of 453 students graduating in 2004 being honor graduates and 188 award and scholarship recipients. The district offers advanced placement classes. Clover Park is a member of the Military Child Coalition, and also is a signatory of the Army's Secondary Education Transition Study's Memorandum of Agreement. This program provides a common structure for information-sharing and reciprocal processes. Oak Harbor serves Naval Air Station Whidbey Island families. In fact, 56% of the students have parents at NASWI. The school district offers advanced placement classes; the high school juniors and seniors perform exceptionally well on SAT tests, and the district's WASL scores are at or above the state average. Each school has a partnership with two or more squadrons or departments at the base, and the Navy's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department operates a before and after school daycare program at each elementary school. Communication efforts include annual training for school district administrators and counselors on issues relevant to Navy families, monthly ombudsmen meetings on the Navy base and tours of the Navy facilities for new school district staff to familiarize themselves with operations of the base and the needs of families. Medical Lake School District serves families stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base. A new elementary school was recently completed on the base. It was built with a six million dollar grant from the Department of Defense and four million eight hundred thousand matching appropriation from the state. The staff at the elementary school provides many programs and services to military families and their children, and provides an exemplary curriculum in the basics of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. The school offers programs to assist students that may be struggling in reading, writing and/or mathematics. The middle school and high school likewise provide a supportive learning environment to the students from the base. Advanced placement classes are offered to improve student preparation for college.

## **The Community and Technical College System**

Washington's community college system makes education affordable and within easy access of students, focusing on employers' needs for a highly skilled workforce. The 34 community and technical colleges offer a wide range of education programs, including job training, college transfer courses, basic skills, high school completion, and GED preparation. The colleges are conveniently located through campuses and extension sites, and courses are available via video and the Internet. Courses are offered with day, evening and weekend options. The college system offers some 1,000 vocational education programs leading to employment in hundreds of occupations. Employers work with the colleges to ensure that the skills students learn meet their needs. Students also have opportunities in many programs to attend school while working in their chosen field. Many students who attend community colleges enter transfer programs that provide the first two years of a bachelor's degree program. The students then transfer to a four-year institution to complete their undergraduate studies. Military personnel and their families are eligible for in-state tuition status.

While all of the community colleges are open to members of the military and their families, several of the community colleges are in close proximity to the military installations in the state and have developed close working relationships.

Bates Technical College in Tacoma offers 44 programs leading to degrees and providing training for more than 350 careers. The college provides a carpentry program at Fort Lewis and fire fighter training at McChord Air Force Base.

Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood offers training in over 80 degree and certificate areas. The college has off-campus training sites at Fort Lewis.

Everett Community College provides on-site enrollment advice services at the Naval Education Center and works with military personnel to facilitate the tuition assistance programs provided by the military. It also maintains a Veteran's Affairs Office. The college is a member of the Servicemember's Opportunity Colleges, to ensure that credits earned by military personnel at other colleges and universities are accepted at Everett Community College, and visa versa.

Olympic College in Bremerton is a Servicemember's Opportunity College and hosts the largest Federal Apprenticeship Program in Washington State. The college has also been designated a homeport training activity, one of only a few in the nation. The college participates in the Defense Training and Education College Consortium, and is expanding its distance learning programs.

Pierce College District has two colleges, one at Lakewood and one at Puyallup. It works in partnership with both the Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base Education Centers to support the military personnel and their adult family members. A memorandum of understanding between the college and both military installations implements a program that supports the educational objectives of the military personnel. The program includes distance learning and on-line courses, and involves participation in eArmyU, Army University Access Online.

Skagit Valley College has a campus in Oak Harbor, and offers a variety of technical degrees and certificates. The college also offers a wide variety of classes online, including the Associate in Arts University and College Transfer Degree. The college is a Servicemember's Opportunity College.

South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia has a campus in Lacey, within driving distance of Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base, and the many personnel that live in the Lacey area. The Center for Continuous Learning provides training and consulting services in a number of computer-related careers, and the Washington Certified Public Manager Program is a nationally recognized certification program. The college has worked with Fort Lewis to provide computer and fire-fighting classes.

Spokane Community College is one of the largest professional/technical community colleges in Washington State, offering degree and certificate programs in over 90 fields. Spokane Falls Community

College, the other community college within close proximity to Fairchild Air Force Base, emphasizes pre-major and liberal arts instruction and is among the top three community colleges in the state in number of students who transfer to four year universities.

### **The University System**

Washington has six public universities, plus a number of distinguished private universities, providing a comprehensive program of higher education from the bachelor's level through doctorate degrees. Military personnel and their families are able to access programs on these campuses, many of which are within commuting distance to the major military installations in the state. A number of the public universities and private institutions belong to the Serviceman's Opportunity College network. All of the major public campuses and several of the private institutions provide Reserve Officer Training Corps programs. In addition to the full campus programs, two of the public universities have specialized centers located in cities near the military installations; these centers extend access to higher education for place-bound students who cannot commute to a campus that may be a 30 or 45 minute drive. For example, Central Washington University offers engineering technology and law and justice programs at Steilacoom, near Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base, and business, technology and organizational development programs at Lynnwood near Naval Station Everett. Western Washington University offers programs at Bremerton, Oak Harbor and at Everett. The University of Washington at Tacoma recently entered into an agreement with the United States Army Recruiting Command, Pierce College and South Sound business organizations to work together to recruit residents to service in the Army while providing them an education that will also be of use when they return to Washington's civilian work force.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Washington has a strong, diverse economy, providing many job opportunities for family members of active duty military personnel stationed in this state. Most of the military bases in Washington are located near the large urban area in the Central Puget Sound and family members of active duty military personnel at these bases can participate in the Everett-Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area labor market. Family members stationed at Fairchild can access the largest labor market in eastern Washington in Spokane County. Long-term county-level labor market projections suggest expansion of the Central Puget Sound and Spokane labor markets, providing many opportunities for family members of military personnel stationed in Washington.

Washington's Employment Security Department tracks employment trends and projects future employment out to 2012 for the state and for individual counties. The trends for the state track the national business cycle. Employment in Washington grew by 38% from 1982 to 1992, compared to 21% for the nation. From 1992 to 2002, employment in Washington grew by 18% compared to 20% for the nation. The recession of 2001 has ended, and Washington's major industries are growing. From 2002 to 2012, employment is projected to expand by 17% in Washington and 15% in the US as a whole.

Family members of personnel stationed in Kitsap County have access to a growing labor market in Kitsap County, as well as the larger and expanding market in King County. From 2002 to 2012, employment is expected to expand by 15% in Kitsap County and 17% in King County. Naval Station Everett families have access to a growing labor market in Snohomish County, which is expected to expand by 17% between 2002 and 2012. King County, next door, is also a viable labor market for families living in Snohomish County. The families of personnel stationed at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island have access to a relatively small labor market in Island County, but many Island County residents commute via a short ferry ride to Snohomish County to access a labor market ten times the size of the Island County market. Employment is projected to expand by 14% in Island County. Island County residents can also access the Skagit County labor market, which is just to the north and twice the size of the Island County labor market. Family members of personnel stationed at bases in Pierce County can access growing labor markets in Pierce, King and Thurston counties. From 2002 to 2012, employment is projected to expand by 17% in Pierce County and 19% in Thurston County. Family members of

personnel stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base can access an expanding labor market with over 200,000 jobs. Spokane County employment is expected to expand by 17% between 2002 and 2012.

Families of military personnel and veterans seeking employment have access to the free WorkSource Center services of the Employment Security Department. The Department has 30 WorkSource Centers strategically placed throughout the state. They provide all the information, technology and services necessary to match up businesses and job seekers. The services are delivered to customers through self-directed efforts such as kiosks or via the Internet, group programs and activities such as workshops, one on one consultations, and training programs and business consultations. Job seekers have free use of computers, copiers, phones, faxes and other career resources. They also have Internet access to jobs, job referral and placement assistance, classes on how to get and keep a job, and information on the fastest growing jobs and wages. In addition, at least one Local Veterans Employment Representative and one Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist staff most WorkSource Centers. The LVER representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists maintain regular contact with community leaders, employers, labor unions, training programs and veterans' organizations to keep them advised of veterans and other eligible persons available for employment training and to keep veterans and eligible persons advised of opportunities for employment and training. Employment Security also hosts or assists in Veteran Job Fairs.

The Employment Security Department and the Navy are working on a Memorandum of Understanding that would have the Department assume the employment service role that was heretofore provided by the Navy on base. The Navy would provide space on base for the Local Veterans' Employment Representative and the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program representative, who would provide all the services currently offered to the public at large at the WorkSource Centers. The services would be offered to active duty and retired members of the Navy, as well as their spouses and teenage or older children. The Department has begun offering the services in anticipation of the memorandum being signed.

## **WORKFORCE TRAINING AND CREDENTIALING**

A key aspect of employment opportunities is access to workforce training and professional or occupational credentials. Washington State's Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board examines postsecondary vocational programs to ensure they meet the requirements of federal veterans benefit programs and is responsible for veterans' course approval for private career school programs and for public community and technical colleges. The WTECB oversees Skill Panels, which engage business and industry in strategies to close the skill gaps in Washington State. Examples of Skill Panels coordinating efforts with military organizations include:

- The Pacific Mountain Health Care Skills Panel is working with partners to assess and create transition plans for military personnel, starting with Combat Medical to Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse.
- The Tacoma-Pierce Health Care Alliance includes partners from Madigan Hospital, who participated in labor-management committee meetings during the development of the Health Unit Coordinator and Computed Tomography/Magnetic Resonance Imaging registered state apprenticeships.
- The Olympic Health Care Alliance acts as facilitator for the Olympic College and the "Navy College" that serves Navy Base Kitsap to improve transitions for armed forces trained personnel, and plans to develop articulation agreements between Navy medical training and Olympic College's health care programs.

Professional licensing could be a barrier to a smooth transition from military service to civilian work, but Washington's commitment to reciprocity and national examinations allows military personnel to obtain licenses with a minimum of effort. There are a few military healthcare designations that do not directly equate to a licensed profession, such as the Army MOS 91-W, which does not directly equate to either an LPN or RN license, but may fit into a civilian nursing occupation. A workgroup that includes

the Executive Director of Nursing Quality Assurance Commission is working on this issue and considering options to allow veterans to use their training and experience to qualify them for work in the health care sector.

## **HOUSING**

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development provides state and federal funding to non-profit housing authorities and tribal governments to create and preserve affordable housing statewide. The Housing Trust Fund has made significant investments in multifamily housing developments in areas near military installations, including Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap, Jefferson, Mason, Island and Spokane counties.

Recently, the Department assessed the housing availability for military personnel to better inform state and local policy makers regarding the status of that sector of the housing market. The assessment found that substantial private housing markets exist near all of the military installations in Washington, providing units that are accessible to active duty military personnel who desire off-base housing. Four representative service ranks were chosen to capture the range of personnel and income levels of active duty personnel who may be seeking off base housing. The four ranks were:

- E-4, (Corporal, Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Sr. Airman) with 4 years in the service; base pay \$1,814 per month.
- E-6, enlisted (Sergeant, Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Technical Sergeant) with 12 years in the service; base pay \$2,596 per month.
- O-3, officer (Captain, Lieutenant) with 4 years in the service; base pay \$4,027 per month).
- O-4, officer (Major, Lt. Commander) with 10 years in the service; base pay \$5,138 per month.

Private housing markets appear to provide an adequate supply to meet the housing needs of military families who wish to live off base, except perhaps in the case of Island County, which has nearby Skagit County as an additional housing market.

As the services move toward privatization of many services including housing, the adequacy of the local private housing markets will be increasingly important. Washington's communities are well equipped to meet these challenges, with active private markets, development capacity, and public programs to assist low-income households. All of the counties housing major military installations in Washington are subject to the Growth Management Act. County plans must provide for adequate zoned capacity to meet ten-year housing demand forecasts. Counties housing military bases consider demand originating from the base personnel as well as residents in these counties not linked to the military population.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Washington's private sector health care providers work with the military installations to supplement the care provided by the military. Spokane's Sacred Heart Medical Center and Empire Health Services have provided in-patient hospital services for active duty and civilian employees at Fairchild since the base hospital evolved into a medical clinic. Everett's Providence Everett Medical Center is only blocks away from Naval Station Everett, and provides the full range of health care services to military personnel and their families. In Kitsap County, a number of health care providers support Naval Hospital Bremerton's delivery of health care services, including Harrison Hospital, a not-for-profit, acute care community hospital with three campuses serving Kitsap County, a multi-specialty group practice, a large regional health maintenance organization, and a non-profit community mental health center. Island County is served by Whidbey General Hospital, which is owned and operated by the Whidbey Island Public Hospital District. The hospital's services include two rural health community clinics. The hospital provides in-patient, out patient, medical, surgical, pediatric and obstetrical services.

The state has a strong local public health district system that provides traditional public health services to all residents, regardless of whether they are active military or civilian. The districts also work in

partnership with the military hospitals as needed for communicable disease control and in coordinating emergency response preparedness.

The Department of Health provides immunization services through private health care providers that military personnel and their families are eligible for if they don't already obtain the service on base. The Department also operates the Women, Infants and Children Services, which provides special nutritional support for the personnel and their dependents in partnership with the military medical clinics and commissaries in the state.

Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services also provides a number of "safety net" programs in the form of food and medical assistance to individuals regardless of whether they are serving in the military or are civilians.

## **THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON WASHINGTON STATE**

The Office of Financial Management conducted a study in 2004 to assess the economic impact of the major military installations on the state and the communities in the vicinity of the installations. The study included: Fort Lewis, McChord Air Force Base, Naval Base Kitsap, Undersea Warfare Center at Keyport, the Northwest Regional Maintenance Center (Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Bangor Intermediate Maintenance Facility) Naval Station Everett, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Fairchild Air Force Base and Yakima Training Center. These facilities are the worksites for more than 83,000 military and civilian personnel, with a \$3.7 billion annual payroll. The bases purchase a variety of goods and services from in-state vendors, and they generate significant economic impacts throughout the state, including \$174 million a year in King County, which is 42% of the total procurement by the bases from within the state. Both statewide and local impacts were estimated in the study, and total more than \$7.2 billion in total labor earnings when multiplier impacts are taken into account. On the order of 5% of all economic activity in Washington State is due to the impacts of the major military bases located in the state. At the county level, the proportion of all activity dependent on the military bases is much larger for three counties: 88% of Island County, 54% of Kitsap County and 30% of Pierce County.

Direct employment at the military bases varies in both size and degree of impact. Pierce County has the largest number of uniformed and civilian personnel serving on its bases, at 34,624, representing 14% of the county's labor force. Kitsap County is a close second in number of personnel, with 27,375 employed; but the impact is much greater due to the population of Kitsap County. The Navy bases in Kitsap County represent 36% of the labor force. On the other hand, even though Island County's military-related employment is much lower, at 10,066, that figure represents 68% of the island's labor force. Snohomish County and Spokane County have substantial work forces on the military bases, at 4,517 and 6,262 respectively. Yakima has a significant workforce of 500 uniformed and civilian personnel at the training center.

The study found that health care services are not only provided by the military hospitals and clinics in the area, but also through private providers who are paid under the TRICARE program. Payments to health care providers in Washington State amounted to \$116 million in 2003. Pierce County providers received \$31.1 million in reimbursement; Spokane County providers received \$30.9 million; Kitsap County providers received \$18.6 million; Snohomish County providers received \$17.5 million; Island County providers received \$14.1 million, and Yakima County providers received \$3.8 million.

The study included retired military personnel pensions. Because there is an on-going relationship between many of the retirees and the bases, and many active duty personnel seek a last posting before retirement in a region of the county in which they want to retire – and Washington bases are a popular choice. Pension payments in this state in 2003 totaled \$1.153 billion. Payments to Pierce County residents totaled \$524.9 million, Kitsap County residents totaled \$253.9, Spokane County residents

totaled \$145.1 million, Snohomish County residents totaled \$138.1 million, and Island County residents totaled \$91.1 million.

Washington companies conduct a substantial amount of business with the military installations in the state. In 2002, Washington companies sold \$528 million worth of goods and services to the military installations located in Washington. Of that amount, ten companies conducted \$288 million worth of the business. Forty-four companies received 100% of their revenue from business with the military installations, while another 66 Washington companies received between 25% and 100% of their revenue from the bases. The database examined by the Office of Financial Management revealed 424 companies doing business with bases in Washington, distributed among 21 counties.

The total impact of the military installations includes both direct and indirect earnings and employment. The Office of Financial Management determined the impact of 187,900 jobs and a total impact on labor earnings of \$7.24 billion. The largest employment and payroll was in Pierce County, with 87,534 jobs and a payroll of \$3.37 billion. Kitsap County has 53,835 jobs related to the military installations in the state, with a payroll of \$2.01 billion. Island County had 20,141 jobs with a payroll of \$775 million; Spokane County had 13,797 jobs with a payroll of \$585 million; and Snohomish County had 11,877 jobs with a payroll of \$474 million. Yakima County, which has the Yakima Training Center, had 709 jobs and an annual payroll of \$22 million.

## **CONCLUSION**

Washington State has policies and partnerships in place that support the missions of the military installations within the state, and provide an excellent home for military personnel and their families. The nation and state benefits from the value the military installations add to the national defense, and the state benefits both from the economic value derived from the installations and the contributions of the military personnel and their families to Washington's social fabric. The relationship between the state and the military is well developed, and will continue to be nurtured both at a statewide level and on an agency-by-agency, installation-by-installation basis.